

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-25 and 32-35 would remain pending, with claims 6, 9, 12, 15, 20, and 32 being independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks.

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 25-31, and 36-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0194232 to Walster ("*Walster*"). Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-24 and 32-35².

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this Application, Applicant has canceled independent claims 1, 26, 27, 36, rendering moot the rejection of claims 1-5, 25-31, and 36-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Walster*.

Also in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant presents claims 6, 9, 12, 15, and 20 in independent form, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter (Office Action at p. 3). Claims 2-5 and 25 have been amended to maintain antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

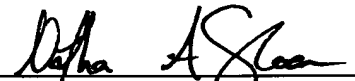
² Applicant notes that the Examiner objected to claim 32 as a dependent claim. However, claim 32 is independent. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable as originally filed.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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